

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**RS25079**

This Legislation amends Idaho's definition of dessert wine. The current definition states that dessert wine can only be labeled as such pursuant to federal standards as "port", "sherry" or "madeira." Idaho wineries are not allowed to label their products as "port", "sherry" or "madeira" due to federal certification of labeling origination issues so the Industry is asking for the definition to be revised to state that dessert wine shall have the taste, aroma and characteristics attributed to "port", "sherry" and "madeira." The Industry is requesting an additional change in the definition of dessert wine by changing the alcohol content from 21 percent to 24 percent to reflect the federal standards of 24 percent for this type of wine. Other states such as Oregon, Washington and California have adopted this federal standard. This Legislation also would not require Idaho wineries to purchase a beer license to sell wine on the winery's original licensed premises. Similar Legislation was passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2010 to exempt wineries from having to purchase a beer license when selling wine by the drink or at retail off of the winery's originally licensed premises.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. Upon passage of this Legislation those who produce dessert wine with the new maximum alcohol content of 24% by volume would sell this product directly to the consumer or retailer. Idaho wineries currently do not sell dessert wine between 21% and 24% alcohol content due to the current state restrictions. If they did they would have to sell it through the Idaho Liquor Division as alcoholic liquor, which they do not do.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).